

Page 3 of 4
Application No. 09/785,205
Amendment C

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 19-21 have been canceled without prejudice. Two (2) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 17 and 18, both indicated as allowed.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 17 and 18 as presented are allowed.

By way of this amendment, Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-9, 11-16 and 19-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,728,518 (Scrivens et al.), in view of U.S. patent No. 5,023,706 (Sandberg), in further view of U.S. patent No. 5,729,280 (Inoue et al). Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U. S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of the Scrivens, Sandberg and Inoue patents in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,073,171 (Gaughan). Applicant traverses these rejections; however, Applicant has canceled claims 1-16 and 19-22 rendering the rejections moot.

Allowed Claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 17 and 18 are allowed. Applicant has amended the application to cancel claims 1-16 and 19-22. Therefore, only allowed claims 17-18 remain pending, and thus, the application is in condition for allowance.

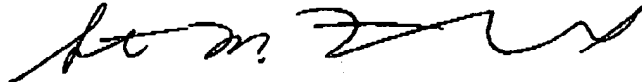
Page 4 of 4
Application No. 09/785,205
Amendment C

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the above amendments and remarks place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Dated: April 25, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Freeland
Reg. No. 42,555
Attorney for Applicant
(858) 552-1311

Address all correspondence to:
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
Thomas F. Lebens
120 So. LaSalle Street, Ste. 1600
Chicago, IL 60603

68546amc